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TITLE: Integrating Modes of Learning With the HIV Prevention Message

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ISSUE: Accommodating the various learning styles of students are one of the many challenges in teaching. Important memory techniques include: repetition, using body senses, and making it fun. Singing utilizes these memory tools and enhances the retention of key HIV information in the educational setting.

SETTING: HIV prevention educational setting.

PROJECT: The three main styles of learning are visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile. Reading the written words on the board allows the visual learner to process the information. Hearing the song allows the auditory learner to absorb the information. Singing a song provides an opportunity for the kinesthetic/tactile learner to get the body involved receive the information. The goal is to have students remember the four body fluids that transmit HIV from one person to another. To the tune of "Row, Row, Row, Your Boat", use the following lyrics

THERE ARE FOUR FLUIDS THAT PASS THE AIDS VIRUS,
BLOOD IS ONE,
SEMEN IS TWO,
MOTHER'S MILK AND VAGINAL FLUIDS.

Repeat five times or until the whole group is familiar with the song. Then split the large group into smaller groups and perform it in rounds.

RESULTS: Students often come back to class the next day complaining that they cannot get the song out of their heads.

Goal achieved: Vital information retained.

LESSONS LEARNED: A child is more likely to retain important information when key concepts are presented in a participative and entertaining learning environment, which uses repetition and engages the three modalities of learning.

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